

epichlorohydrin, ethylene glycol diglycidylether, butanediol diglycidylether, polyglycerol polyglycidylether, polyethylene glycol diglycidylether, polypropylene glycol diglycidylether, and a bis-or poly-epoxy cross-linker.

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cont

Please substitute the following claim 5 for the pending claim 5:

5. (once amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein an ether bond is formed using a crosslinking agent selected from the group consisting of bis epoxides and poly epoxides under alkaline conditions.

Please substitute the following claim 6 for the pending claim 6:

6. (once amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein an ester bond is formed using a crosslinking agent selected from the group consisting of bis epoxides and poly epoxides under acidic conditions.

Please substitute the following claim 7 for the pending claim 7:

7. (once amended) A process according to claim 5 wherein the crosslinker is selected from the group consisting of 1,2,3,4-diepoxybutane and 1,2,7,8-diepoxyoctane.

Please substitute the following claim 8 for the pending claim 8:

8. (once amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein an ether bond is formed using a gluteraldehyde cross-linking agent under acidic conditions.

Please substitute the following claim 9 for the pending claim 9:

Q2 cont
9. (once amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein the crosslinking of each type of functional group is effected sequentially.

Q3
Please substitute the following claim 11 for the pending claim 11:

Q3
11. (once amended) A process according to claim 9 wherein HA is first cross-linked via the hydroxyl groups by formation of ether bonds and subsequently cross-linked via the carboxyl groups by formation of ester bonds.

Q4
Please substitute the following claim 12 for the pending claim 12:

Q4
12. (once amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein the crosslinking of each type of functional group is effected simultaneously.

Q5
Please substitute the following claim 13 for the pending claim 13:

Q5
13. (once amended) A process according to claim 1 for preparing double crosslinked HA.

Q6
Please substitute the following claim 15 for the pending claim 15:

Q6
15. (once amended) Multiple cross-linked HA obtainable by a process according to claim 1.

Please substitute the following claim 17 for the pending claim 17:

17. (once amended) Cross-linked HA according to claim 15 wherein the crosslinking bonds are two or more selected from the group consisting of ether, ester, sulfone, amine, imino and amide bonds.

Please substitute the following claim 18 for the pending claim 18:

18. (once amended) Multiple cross-linked HA according to claim 15 in the form of a film.

Please substitute the following claim 19 for the pending claim 19:

19. (once amended) Multiple cross-linked HA according to claim 15 in the form of a gel.

Please substitute the following claim 20 for the pending claim 20:

20. (once amended) HA according to claim 15 which is double cross-linked HA.

Please substitute the following claim 21 for the pending claim 21:

21. (once amended) A product comprising multiple cross-linked HA according to claim 15.